Remarks

Each of the multiple dependent claims has been amended to depend from only a single preceding claim, in order to reduce the filing fee.

New claims 21 and 22 have been added to the application. Claim 21 is the same as claim 17 except that it is dependent on claim 14. Claim 22 is the same as claim 20 except that it is dependent on claim 17, and refers to the fiber structure in claim 17, but does not refer to the sustained-release polymer for amino acid derivative mentioned in claim 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Masao IENO et al.

By:

Michael R. Davis Registration No. 25,134

Attorney for Applicants

MRD/pth Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 January 6, 2006